P.-T. 3/1/70

The Cook County Barbershop

When the Cleveland Indians force one of the baseball players they own to have a haircut before spring training or pay a thousand-dollar fine, or when the Armed Services lay down the law on acceptable hair styles, it is one thing—arguable, but in some degree defensible. When the people who run Cook County, Illinois, shave off people's hair and whiskers in jail and then exhibit photographs of them at political rallies it is something else—vulgar, offensive, indefensible.

Perhaps Mr. Winston Moore, superintendent of the Cook County jail in Chicago, was only doing his job when he ordered shearings for the Chicago five-plus-two (except one, David Dellinger, who is apparently too bald to have objectionably long hair) for "sanitary reasons." That is hard to believe, however, when you learn that County Sheriff Joseph Woods—who is running for chairman of the Cook County Board of Commissioners—immediately displayed pictures of the six men to the guffawing audience at a suburban Republican organization meeting, boasting that "this is just to show you we Republicans get things done." Maybe he expects to get elected on the basis of responsibility for this act of clear political courage, this victory over such an outrageous form of dissent as long hair and beards.

The haircuts of the defendants, now free on bail, almost certainly become a *cause celebre*, a symbol on both sides of the case, and the danger is that they will obscure some of the more important issues involved in this trial which never should have taken place. There is a nagging suspicion that the haircuts were ordered for purposes of humiliation rather than sanitation, that they could have been delayed pending appeal of the convictions. Mr. Woods and others may believe, however, that this is the key to breaking the will of those they consider to be "hippies." It is not, of course, the key to anything, except perhaps to the character of those who operate Cook County's barbershop.